

facilitated by technological innovation in cybernetics and telecommunications.

Has globalisation helped modernisation in Southeast Asia? A viable argument will be that it has strengthened it. Most successful Asian states embraced globalisation in the economic realm. That Southeast Asia has been a beneficiary of globalisation, is shown by the economic miracle in the second half of the twentieth century. Eight states, namely, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand grew economically faster in the 1990s than all other regions in the world. This explains why opposition to globalisation was less trident in Bangkok or Beijing than in London or Seattle.

The Origins

The voyage of Christopher Columbus who sailed across the Atlantic in 1492, and his discovery of America had momentous consequences. European powers set about opening up the world. All national governments function in an interdependent world. We witness the flow round the globe of aid, disease, drugs, information, money, culture, migrants and refugees.

There is no consensus on the specific moment when the global flow started. Some of the suggestions made by researchers are the dawn of human civilisation, the middle of the nineteenth century and the 1970s. We may not be wrong if we conclude that globalisation appeared scores of years ago and developed at a slower pace than today. We may trace the beginnings to the commencement of telegraphic communications (1840s) and certain global movements like feminism. Meetings to deal with transboundary pollution were held in the 1930s. However, the impact of globalisation was not felt by a large proportion of humanity. Below are some of the key events in the march of globalisation.

Year	Event
1866	First transoceanic telegraph cable
1919	First scheduled transborder airline services
1930	First global radio forecast
1946	First digital computer constructed
1949	First package holidays
1955	First McDonald's Restaurant
1960	Coining of the term 'Global Village'
1971	First electronic stock exchange established
1976	First direct broadcast satellite launched
1978	Detection of the ozone hole
1991	Introduction of World Wide Web
1997	Round-the-world fibre-optic link completed.

The Process

The term 'international' coined in the 1780s by the philosopher, Jeremy Bentham, caught hold when nation-states were formed and cross-border transactions between them began. In the 1980s a new term 'globalisation' came into vogue. To speak of global markets, global conferences and global communications and also of global warming and global peace. The term represents a significant change that has been taking in the world in the last four decades of the twentieth century.

Globalisation is a process. The many ways by which people interact with and affect each other are more and more being linked and organised, taking the world as a single place. The multi-faceted term and below are some of the ideas for globalisation stands.